

Austin Nature and Science Center

2015 – 2016 Monthly Homeschool Programs

Days and Times: Homeschool Monthly Programs cover a new topic each month. Each topic is repeated Monday, Tuesday and Friday with a morning time of 10:00 am or an afternoon time at 12:30 pm. All Monthly Homeschool Programs are 1.5 hours. Dates and topics are listed below with a brief description.

Registration: **Registration begins August 10, 2015** at 9am and will be available [on-line](#). Your child may attend the Fall Semester (4 sessions) or the Spring Semester (3 sessions) or both semesters (total of 7 sessions). Fill out the registration and waiver information online. If you do not have access to the internet please contact us at 512-974-3888.

Cost: Fall Semester: Austin Resident \$40.00 per participant, Non Resident \$44.00 per participant
Spring Semester: Austin Resident \$30.00 per participant, Non Resident \$33.00 per participant

Ages: Each date and time for Monthly Homeschool Programs offers 3 different age groups, 3-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds, and 9-12 year olds.

FALL

6 Legs, 8 Legs and Many Legs (September 21-25): This program meets at ANSC. Observe insects, spiders, millipedes and more up close in the classroom. Touch a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach and listen for the hiss. Discover the characteristics of arthropods and the classes of bugs in that phylum. Experience being an entomologist by using field nets to collect bugs from different habitats and learn to identify and classify them.

Trees (October 26-30): This program will meet at **Mary Moore Searight Metro Park**: [<link to map>](#). Discover the beauty of this City of Austin Park and see how the trees and shrubs form the structure of the forest ecosystem. Biodiversity is part of a healthy ecosystem; learn to identify different Texas trees and shrubs that grow in the park. Discover why most leaves are green and why that is so important to the food chain.

Minerals, Rocks and Dinos (November 16-20): This program meets at ANSC. Learn about Austin's unique geologic past as an ocean floor and a site of faulting and earthquakes. Investigate prehistoric animals, their behavior and their environment. Explore fossil artifacts to draw conclusions about the animal's habitat, movement, diet and anatomy.

Roller Coasters (December 14-18): Use your own creativity and our supplies to build a model rollercoaster. Explore how gravity and friction affect the thrill of the roller coaster ride. Investigate conservation of energy as you watch the "rider" take off down the first hill. Test your rollercoaster for speed, safety and coolness.

SPRING

Very Small (January 25-29): This program meets at ANSC. Some things are so small we cannot see them with our eyes, so how do we know they are there? Use magnifiers, chemical properties other tools to identify some very small stuff. Consider the size differences between planets, people, pollens, and protons. Find evidence of tiny life outdoors.

Threatened and Endangered (February 22-26): This program will meet at **Sheffield Education Center (SEC) at Barton Springs**: [<link to map>](#). Explore the meanings of threatened, endangered and extinct. Visit with animals in the classroom that represent animals at risk in Texas. Explore ways to help animals keep their populations safe. Hike around Zilker Park to investigate how the City of Austin helps to preserve animal habitats.

Creeks and Aquifers (March 21-25): This program will meet at **the Sheffield Education Center at Barton Springs**: [<link to map>](#). Wear your water shoes as we wade into Lower Barton Creek to collect aquatic critters and predict water quality in this urban waterway. Observe specimens under a microscope to identify and aquatic invertebrates. Explore the "Splash" exhibit to see the Barton Springs salamander and to learn the Edwards Aquifer and Barton Springs.

